

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**HDP-2018-0444**  
**809 CHRISTOPHER STREET**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1932 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame cottage with a central, front-gabled entry hood; single and paired 1:1 fenestration with decorative wood screens.

**RESEARCH**

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The house was built around 1932 by Bob and Jewel Marshall, who lived here until around 1936. Bob Marshall was an auto body man who, after living here, opened his own auto body shop. He gained some notoriety in the late 1930s when he shot a man who had threatened him at his body shop. It does not appear that criminal charges were filed against him for this killing, and he won a civil suit brought by the parents of the deceased man. He was an auto racing enthusiast, racing and sponsoring races in and around Austin in the 1940s. His son, Bob Marshall, Jr. had a large used car lot in town in the early 1960s.

Around 1948, the house was purchased by Robert and Annette Preusse, who lived here for the rest of their lives. Robert Preusse was a driver for the Becker Lumber Company when he and Annette bought this house; his later career was as a painter at Brackenridge Hospital.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is beyond the bounds of any city survey to date.

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a frame early 1930s cottage with little architectural distinction; the 1930s cottage is a common housing type in Austin. This house does not qualify for landmark designation under the criterion for architecture.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was owned by an auto body shop worker (later owner, but after he had moved from this house), and two painters. There do not appear to be significant historical associations.
- c. **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of

photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center. The house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

**NOTIFICATIONS**

CASE#: HDP-2018-0444  
 LOCATION: 809 CHRISTOPHER ST



1" = 250'

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

809 Christopher Street  
ca. 1932



### OCCUPANCY HISTORY 809 Christopher Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
July, 2014

1992	Robert H. and Annette B. Preusse, owners Retired
1985-86	Robert H. and Annette B. Preusse, owners Retired
1981	Robert H. and Annette B. Preusse, owners Retired
1977	Robert H. and Annette Preusse, owners Plant operator, Brackenridge Hospital
1973	Robert H. and Annette Preusse, owners Maintenance man, Brackenridge Hospital
1968	Robert H. and Annette Preusse, owners Maintenance man, Brackenridge Hospital Also listed is Curtis Preusse, a student.
1962	Robert H. and Annette Preusse, owners Painter, Brackenridge Hospital

Also listed is Marilyn J. Preusse, a student.

- 1959 Robert H. and Annette Preusse, owners  
Painter, Brackenridge Hospital
- 1955 Robert H. and Annette Preusse, owners  
Painter, Brackenridge Hospital
- 1952 Robert H. and Annette Preusse, owners  
Driver, Becker Lumber Company, 87-97 Congress Avenue.
- 1949 Robert and Annette Preusse, owners  
Driver, Becker Lumber Company, 87-97 Congress Avenue.  
NOTE: Lucille D. Jensen is not listed in the directory.
- 1947 Lucille D. Jensen, owner  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: Robert and Annette Preusse are not listed in the directory.
- 1944-45 Harold and Lucille Jensen, owners  
U.S. Merchant Marine
- 1941 Lucille Jensen, owner  
No occupation listed
- 1939 John B. and Sybil Hulseley, owners  
Painter
- 1937 John B. Hulseley, renter  
Painter  
NOTE: Robert L. and Jewel Marshall are not listed in the directory.
- 1935 Robert L. and Jewel Marshall, owners  
General manager, Mason's Fender Shop, 112 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 711 Christopher Street.
- 1932-33 Robert L. and Jewel Marshall, owners  
Fender man, Mason's Fender Shop, 112 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 711 Christopher Street.
- 1930-31 No houses are listed on Christopher Street.  
NOTE: Robert L. and Jewel Marshall are listed at 69 East Avenue; he was a  
body worker at Haston Body Works, S. Congress Avenue at Barton Springs  
Road.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Robert L. and Jewel Marshall (ca. 1932 – ca. 1936)**

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Bob L. and Jewel L. Marshall as the renters of the house at 1301 Newning Avenue in Austin. Bob L. Marshall was 21, had been born in Texas, and was a helper in a fender shop. Jewel L. Marshall was also 21, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had an infant son, Bob, Jr., who had been born in Texas.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Bob L. and Jewell Marshall as the owners of the house at 815 Christopher Street in Austin; that house was worth \$3,000. Bob L. Marshall was 31, had been

born in Texas, and was the manager of an auto repair shop. Jewell Marshall was 32, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 sons: Bob, Jr., 10; and Richard A., 8 months. The Marshalls had a live-in housekeeper, Georgia Crawford, 22, who had been born in Texas. She lived in Elgin, Texas in 1935.

Bob Marshall died in 1975; Jewel Marshall died in 1990. Their son, Bob Marshall, Jr., owned a used car lot at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and West Avenue in the early 1960s.

## Austin Man Shot to Death At Body Works Plant's Entrance

**Bob Marshall Gives Up  
And Faces Charge  
Of Murder**

**THREAT BARED  
UPON SHOOTING**

**One Shot Is Fired At  
10-Foot Distance  
At Driver**

Walter Armstrong, 36, of 909 Flores street was shot to death at 6 p. m. Saturday in the entrance of Marshall's Body works, 209 East First street.

Immediately after the shooting Bob Marshall, operator of the body works, went to the Travis county sheriff's office and gave himself up.

"I hated to do it, but I couldn't help it," Marshall said.

**Claims Phone Threat**

Marshall declared that he had received a telephone call from Armstrong threatening his life. Marshall said he begged Armstrong not to cause any trouble.

Officers had statements that said the telephone call came from a garage on Congress avenue.

Shortly after the call, witnesses said, Armstrong started walking into the driveway of the Marshall Body works, and as he neared Marshall he put his hand in his pocket.

**Fires Once at 10 Feet**

Marshall fired once at him from a distance of 10 feet using an automatic shotgun which contained four shells of No. 1 buckshot.

The charge entered Armstrong's chest and the buckshot lodged in his body. Officers said they could not find any of the pellets near the spot.

Armstrong was taken to Brack-

enridge hospital, but was dead on arrival. City Det. D. P. Freeman said he arrived at the Marshall Body works just as Armstrong took his last breath.

A search of Armstrong's clothing revealed that he was carrying a knife. Freeman said.

Marshall talked freely about the shooting at the sheriff's office, following which a murder charge was filed against him in Justice of the Peace Sam Rogers court, signed by Dep. Sheriff Jim McCoy.

Justice Tom Johnson, acting as coroner, returned a verdict of death by gunshot wound.

Marshall said Armstrong came to his place of business Friday and demanded commission on a car which he claimed to have sold. The body works operator affirmed that he knew nothing about the alleged sale.

The tires on Marshall's automobile were slashed with a knife during Friday night, officers said.

Funeral services will be held from the Wilke-Manor Funeral home Sunday at 5 p. m. with the Rev. H. C. Morrison of the East Avenue Baptist church officiating.

Pallbearers will be Bill Rollins, W. B. Harvill, Steve Burland, Herman Olle, Howard Houston and J. D. Houston.

Bob Marshall shoots a man who threatened him  
Austin American-Statesman, March 26, 1939

## Armstrong Damage Suit Nears Jury Charge Stage

Trial of the \$13,000 damage suit of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Armstrong against Bob Marshall, operator of Marshall Body Works, was nearing the end in the 98th district court Thursday.

Defense testimony was in progress Thursday morning and was expected to close during the afternoon. Judge Graham Gillis of Cameron, presiding, was expected to give the charge to the jury Friday.

The defense through its testimony attempted to show that Bob Marshall, who admitted the fatal shooting of Walter Armstrong, 36-year-old son of the plaintiffs, last March 25, acted in self-defense and only after threats against Marshall's life had been made by Armstrong.

Tommie Patton, 18, a former wrecker driver for Marshall, testified Thursday morning that he was answering a telephone call in the

body works office on the night of the shooting. Patton told the jury that just before the shooting he saw Armstrong approach the door of the office of the Marshall Body Works, and that he heard Armstrong tell Marshall to "come out in the street and we will settle things for good."

Patton quoted Marshall as telling Armstrong: "Walter, go down the street and everything will be all right; we don't want to have any trouble." The witness said as Armstrong approached the office he saw Marshall sitting on the arm of an office chair with a shotgun in his hands which was leveled in the "general direction of Armstrong." He said he did not actually see Marshall fire the gun because he was still at the telephone, but after the shooting saw Marshall with the gun in his hand.

Story on the civil trial of Bob Marshall for shooting Walter Armstrong  
Austin Statesman, July 13, 1939

# Suit Is Won By Marshall

Bob Marshall, operator of the Marshall Body Works, Saturday had a verdict in his favor which was returned by a 98th district court jury on special issues in the \$13,000 damage suit brought against him by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Armstrong following the slaying last March 23 of Walter Armstrong, son of the plaintiffs.

The jury deliberated for nearly two hours on the eight special issues in the case before returning its verdict. Judgment in the case is to be entered later by the court.

The damage suit was on trial before a jury for four days with Dist. Judge Graham Gillis of Cameron presiding.

On the stand Marshall said he shot Armstrong at the Marshall Body Works in self-defense, explaining that 10 minutes before the shooting occurred Armstrong had telephoned a threat to him.

Bob Marshall wins the suit filed by the parents of the man he shot  
Austin Statesman, July 15, 1939

**SPORTS SITUATION****'Oldfield,' They Called  
Him Back in Those Days**

By **MORRIS WILLIAMS**  
The Austin Statesman Sports Staff

**WE** HAPPENED to encounter our old friend Bob Marshall, local auto racing bug, yesterday, and somehow the talk drifted around to auto racing. It has been quite a few summers since the heavy foot has held a fascination for your correspondent, although there was a day when we fancied ourself quite a chauffeur of the fast stuff—the strictly amateur variety, of course.

The record we established between Hondo and the city limits of San Antonio stood for years. Fact, so far as we know, no one ever approached the mark we set in a 1920 model Dodge touring car—40 miles in 45 minutes, including 10 minutes required to extricate the vehicle from a mudhole just west of Castroville. We are referring, of course, to the pre-paved road era. We have no doubt that later, when civilization had overrun San Antonio and pushed out westward with its inevitable hard-surfaced roads, our swift dash to the city that late Saturday afternoon faded in the memories of all save the group of young men who cheered us on our way.

They couldn't forget. A dance was scheduled that night. At 6 p. m. a frenzied poll revealed that the local supply of tequila and mescal—refreshments in popular favor, at that time—was wholly inadequate, and in fact scarcely enough to get the evening started properly. We, as the only one in the crowd deemed sufficiently reliable to be dispatched on such a mission, were sent, with handclaps from all, to the city to obtain additional refreshments.

We pride ourself that we returned, in time, with the consignment intact, or nearly so.

**HEAVY FOOT BOYS TAKE SOME TIME OFF**

**OH, YES.** Mr. Marshall. Bob has a hand in the promoting of modified stock car races at the Fredericksburg road track. He said that there will be no races in Austin for a couple of weeks. Some new racers are being conditioned in San Antonio and Dallas, and the next meet here will have these entries as competitors along with Austin cars and perhaps some Waco entrants.

We asked Bob about the cars that whiz around the local half-mile dirt track. He said they're not "jalopies" but stock cars with souped-up engines—special cams, valves and stuff. Some are able to hit 130 m.p.h. on the road, but the half-mile track slows them down to about 75. He said the racers actually are running "uphill" all the time because of the turns and the short straightaways.

Bob's special Ford beat off the challenge last Sunday by Mart Digby's and Dude Stelfox's pet Chevrolet. Auto racers habitually think that their own cars are the best and the fastest, and sometimes even when they're proved otherwise the drivers and owners aren't convinced. Marshall said that Fred's garage is building a new job and that it should be ready for the next meet here.

In the meantime, if you want to see the buggies roll you may go to San Antonio.

Bob Marshall was an auto racing enthusiast  
Austin Statesman, February 28, 1946

**MARSHALL, Bob, Sr., 67,**  
 402 Almarion Drive, died  
 Wednesday. Services 3 p.m.  
 Saturday at Wilke-Clay  
 Funeral Home.

Obituary of Bob Marshall  
 Austin American-Statesman, November 15, 1975

**Lucille Jensen (ca. 1940 – ca. 1948)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Lucile Jensen as the owner of this house, which was worth \$2,500. Lucile Jensen was 30, had been born in Louisiana, and had no occupation listed. She had lived in Houston in 1935. With her lived her mother, Annie N. Davis, a 52-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed; and Lucile's brother, LeRoy Davis, 18, who had been born in Texas, and was a sodder for the CCC.

**Robert and Annette Preusse (ca. 1948 – ca. 2010)**

**Robert Henry Preusse**

**Robert Henry Preusse, age 76, of Austin, passed away on Saturday, February 8, 1992.**

**He was born in Copeland, Texas, on October 21, 1915, to Minnie Schiller Preusse and Gottlieb Preusse. On December 24, 1935, he married Annette Bertha Appel. They have resided in Austin since 1948. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Preusse was employed for 26 years in the Maintenance Department of Brackenridge Hospital in Austin.**

**Survivors include his wife, Annette, son and daughter-in-law, Curtis and Jan Preusse of Hilton Head, South Carolina; daughter, Marilyn Preusse of Austin. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews and dear friends.**

**Funeral services will be 1:30 PM, Tuesday at Weed-Corley Funeral Home with Pastor Paul Ziese officiating. Burial will be in Capital Memorial Park.**

**Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home. 3125 N. Lamar. 452-8811.**

Obituary of Robert Preusse  
 Austin American-Statesman, February 10, 1992

## Annette B. Preusse

Annette B. Preusse, 95, a loving mother, passed away on October 21, 2010, in Austin. She was born in rural Williamson County, near Taylor, on March 18, 1915, to Adam and Bertha Toellner Appel.

She married Robert Preusse on December 24, 1935, and had two children. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Robert, her sister, her six brothers, four nephews, and a niece. She is survived by daughter Marilyn Preusse of West Lake Hills, Texas, son and daughter-in-law Curtis and Jan Preusse of Port Richey, Florida, cousin Edna Weiss, several nieces and nephews, and dear friends.

She will be greatly missed.

Graveside services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2010 at Capital Parks Cemetery in Pflugerville.

In lieu of flowers, you may make a contribution to a charity of your choice.

*Weed-Corley-Fish*  
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATION SERVICES

3125 N. Lamar Blvd, 512/452-8811

Obituary of Annette Preusse  
Austin American-Statesman, October 24, 2010

Connection Charge \$ 12.00

N<sup>o</sup> 13209

Application for Sewer Connection.

SW/4 Austin, Texas, 3-9- 1937

To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,  
City of Austin, Texas

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by J.D. HULSEY at 809 CHRISTOPHER Street, further described as lot 4, block 2, outlot \_\_\_\_\_, subdivision LINSCOMB/LINSCOMB, division —, plat 112, which is to be used as a RESIDENCE

In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance charge.

J.E. DEER Respectfully,  
AT PL W. H. & B. Hulson

Stub Out

Connected 3/11 1937 Con 12' East

Size of Main 6 inches. at street

Size of Service 4 inches. at lot line

6 Feet Deep in ST

28 Feet from Property Line

\_\_\_\_\_ Feet from Curb Line

Inspected by Monteight

Connection made by W. H. Hulson

A-1128

Sewer connection application by J.D. Hulsey for this house (1937)

*32* *S-4* **WATER SERVICE PERMIT**  
Austin, Texas

No. 21221 *50.110*  
**INDEXED**  
Date *10-11-40*

Received of \_\_\_\_\_  
Address *809 Christopher St.*  
Amount \$ *Per Tap*  
Plumber \_\_\_\_\_ Size of Tap *3/4"*

Date of Connection <i>10-11</i>	
Size of Tap Made <i>3/4"</i>	
Size Service Made <i>"</i>	
Size Main Tapped <i>6"</i>	
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	
From <i>E</i> Prop. Line to Curb Cock <i>4.3'</i>	
Location of Meter <i>back curb</i>	
Type of Box <i>Lock</i>	
Depth of Main in St. <i>2.5'</i>	
Depth of Service Line <i>"</i>	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main <i>10'</i>	
Checked by Engr. Dept. <i>M.B. 2-11-20-45</i>	

No. Fittings	Size
1	Curb Cock <i>3/4" cop. ell</i>
1	Elbow <i>3/4" cop. ell</i>
	St. Elbow
	Bushing
	Reducer
1	Pipe <i>3/4" copper</i>
	Lead Comp.
	Nipples
1	Union <i>3/4" cop.</i>
	Tees
	Stop Box

*U.S. 2-5-02*  
*east*

**INDEXED**

Water service permit for this address (1940)

Robert Preusse 809 Christopher St  
118 4 2 4 E

Linscomb & Linscomb

Relocate garage on lot.

40964 5-13-49 \$30.00

L. D. Dennis

Building permit to Robert Preusse to relocate the garage (1949)

Robert Preusse 809 Christopher St.  
118 4 2 4 B

Linscomb & Linscomb

Frame addition to rear of residence.

48443 6-6-51 \$1300.00

Walter Kruse

Building permit to Robert Preusse for a frame addition (1951)

OWNER	Robert Preusse	ADDRESS	809 Christopher St.
PLAT	118	LOT	14
		BLK.	2
SUBDIVISION	Linscomb & Linscomb		
OCCUPANCY	Addn to gar.		
BLDG. PERMIT #	193405	DATE	3-24-80
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	500.00
CONTRACTOR	Same	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC#		SEWER TAP REC#	
	Addn to gar.		
	224 sq. ft.		

Building permit to Robert Preusse for an addition to the garage (1980)